

*Sub A1*

What We Claim Is:

1. An apparatus for attaching a pad of friction material to a backing plate comprising:
  - 5 at least one rigid structure attached to said backing plate in at least two places, said structure operatively arranged to form at least one closed loop with said backing plate.
  2. The apparatus recited in Claim 1 wherein said structure is operatively arranged to be surrounded by said pad.
  3. The apparatus recited in Claim 1 wherein said structure is mechanically attached to said backing plate.
  4. The apparatus recited in Claim 3 wherein said mechanical attachment method is welding.
  5. The apparatus recited in Claim 1 wherein said structure is chemically bonded to said backing plate.
  6. The apparatus recited in Claim 1 wherein said structure is a pair of "U" shaped loops, each of said loops having a pair of legs, said legs attached to said backing plate.
  7. The apparatus recited in Claim 1 wherein said structure is fabricated from friction material.
  8. A method for attaching a pad of friction material to a backing plate comprising:
    - 15 attaching at least one rigid structure to said backing plate in at least two places, where said structure forms a closed loop with said backing plate; and
    - 20 forming said pad on said backing plate.

9. The method recited in Claim 8 wherein said pad completely surrounds said structure.

10. The method recited in Claim 8 wherein said structure is mechanically attached to said backing plate.

5 11. The apparatus recited in Claim 10 wherein said mechanical attachment method is welding.

12. The method recited in Claim 8 wherein said structure is chemically bonded to said backing plate.

13. The method recited in Claim 8 wherein said structure is a pair of "U" shaped loops, each of said loops having a pair of legs, said legs attached to said backing plate.

14. The method recited in Claim 8 wherein said structure is fabricated from friction material.

15. An apparatus for holding a pad, comprising:  
a backing plate; and,  
at least one rigid closed loop structure emanating from and fixedly secured to said backing plate.

16. The apparatus recited in Claim 15 wherein said pad is a brake pad.

17. The apparatus recited in Claim 15 wherein said pad is a clutch pad.

18. An article of manufacture comprising:  
a backing plate;  
at least one rigid closed loop structure emanating from and fixedly secured to said  
backing plate; and  
5 a pad of friction material at least partially surrounding said structure.

19. The article recited in Claim 18 wherein said pad is a disc brake pad.

20. The article recited in Claim 18 wherein said pad is a drum brake pad.

21. The article recited in Claim 18 wherein said pad is a clutch pad.